



HORTICULTURE HORIZONS

The Newsletter of the Oklahoma Horticultural Society

WINTER 2004
DEC/JAN/FEB

DR. ALLAN ARMITAGE - WINTER MEETING GUEST

This year the Oklahoma Horticultural Society will be bringing Dr. Allan Armitage to lecture during our annual speaker series. Dr. Armitage will be speaking at two locations. One in Tulsa, OK on February 18 and during our Annual Winter Meeting on February 19 in Oklahoma City.

Dr. Armitage is currently professor of horticulture at the University of Georgia, Athens, where he teaches, conducts research and manages the highly respected Georgia Horticulture Gardens. He has authored eight books, six CD's and more than 300 articles and papers in both trade journals and leading garden magazines. He travels the globe as a lecturer and consultant and has received numerous awards from nursery trade groups and horticultural organizations, including The Medal of Honor from the Garden Club of America, the Quill and Trowel Award from the Garden Writers Association of America and the American Horticultural Society National Educator Award. Some of his books include Armitage's Manual of Annuals, Biennials & Half-hardy Perennials, Herbaceous Perennial Plants, Armitage's Garden Perennials and Armitage's Garden Annuals.

Dr. Allan Armitage's Schedule:

Friday, February 18th, Tulsa 6:30 PM, Tulsa's Hardesty Library Auditorium, 8360 E. 93rd Street

"Legends in the Garden: Who in the World is Nellie Stevens?"

In many cases, we wonder not only what our gardens grow but also who our plants were named for and why. Dr. Allan Armitage will entertain us with stories of unique plants and the intriguing people, places, and the discoveries that led to their naming. Gardening history comes alive as Allan puts faces with the names of American garden legends.



OHS CHRISTMAS PARTY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

6:30 PM

See page 3 for the details !

Saturday, February 19th, Oklahoma City, OKC Zoo and Botanical Gardens Education Center, 2101 NE 50th (East parking lot)

OHS Annual Meeting schedule:

1:00 PM General Membership

2:30 PM Dr. Allan Armitage Lecture

"If You're Going to Spend Your Money, You Might As Well Buy the Good Stuff"

One of Allan's favorite expressions is "there is no such thing as an old gardener," but he would also be the first to tell us "there are many broke gardeners. Plants are expensive, especially for adventurous gardeners, thus the need to discuss the good and the bad in the plant world." Allan will talk about annual and perennial plants that will perform well in Oklahoma gardens.

See page 7 for information on Dr. Armitage's books.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As my third year as president of the 'Hort' Society comes to a close, I can't help but notice how much busier this group seems to be all year round. You'd think things would slow down as Christmas approaches but there always seems to be one more thing to do. And that's a good thing!

Thanks to OHS members Dixie & Bruce Gordon's generosity and hospitality, we have a great location for our Christmas party this month. All are welcome, details inside!

Our Garden Tour for Connoisseurs co chair Beth Wagner, John Fluitt, Jennifer and myself have been combing the countryside searching for the perfect gardens for our tour next June and have already come up with some gems.

We've had a good sign up of volunteers for our booth at the Garden Show, January 21-23 at the Oklahoma City Fairgrounds and we also plan a return to the Oklahoma Garden Show in Tulsa next March. Let me know if you'd like to pitch in at either of these events.

Then of course we have the much-anticipated arrival of Dr. Allan Armitage this February. Details inside. We'll need some help in selling books in OKC so holler if you want to help. I do want to forewarn our members that seating at his programs may get sparse so be sure to arrive early. Be sure to watch our website, www.okhort.org, for all the latest updates and events.

I want to thank everyone who attended the Bi-Annual Meeting in Stillwater September 19th. This was the largest turnout I'd ever seen there and thanks to everyone's generosity, we nearly doubled our proceeds from the silent auction last year (which more than doubled from the year before!) Alan Branhagen gave an exceptional program and JoAnne Vervinck was awarded the Oklahoma Horticultural Society's George Vaclavek Gold Medal for her dedication to both the society and the state in the field of horticulture. Congratulations JoAnne!

Speaking of doubling, I also want to thank everyone who pitched in at the OKC Zoo's Autumn Extravaganza, where we doubled our proceeds from plant sales again this year. A special thanks to Wanda White for chairing that event.

Lastly I want to report that JoAnne Vervinck also completed her work on the proposal to nominate Will Rogers Park & Arboretum to the National Registry of Historic Places. Contracted by the Oklahoma Horticultural

Society and the State Historic Preservation Office, this proposal must clear the city, state and federal offices to become a reality. We have and will be working with government agencies to help see that it does succeed. Regardless of the final outcome, JoAnne's research will always be an important record of the park's history and an invaluable archive for future generations. A copy of this work will be presented to the Will Rogers Garden Exhibition Center Library for all to see.

Respectfully, **Hugh Stout Jr.**

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

	Members	Non-member
Bus card	\$15.00	\$20.00
1/4 page	25.00	35.00
1/2 page	45.00	55.00
full page	85.00	100.00

Issue	Deadline
Spring	March 1
Summer	May 1
Fall	August 15
Winter	November 15

Think Spring This Fall

by Loretta Aaron

Time now to tuck in the garden for another year. And to think spring. Think spring? YES. What your garden will look like next spring, will depend upon what you do this fall. It's still not too late to plant pansies, violas, dianthus, snapdragons and ornamental kale and cabbage. If the annual poppy has never been a part of your garden, sow seed now. They add a colorful display in early spring. Grow them in full sun. Rake the area lightly before scattering seed. Nature will do the rest. Should the winter be dry, I usually will water the area. If plants are too crowded, thin them. They do not transplant readily. There are several varieties of annual poppies and both single and double form. All do well in our area.

Spring flowering bulbs can still be planted. Try to have them planted by December 15. In our area, tulips are considered an annual. Some gardeners will lift the bulbs after the foliage dies back and allow them to air dry for a few days, then store in a paper sack, in a cool area and replant again in the fall. I have found that the Lily flowered tulips will often return for a few years, if grown in full sun, in good drainage and not over planted with other plants. Two good ones are West Point and Red Shine. Most of the tulips I grow I treat as an annual. My favorite is the huge Parrot tulip, Texas Flame.

Daffodils are a good investment. Most will bloom and return for many years with good form and substance. Foliage must remain until it dies back. The foliage is necessary to mature the bulb for another year of bloom. Daffodils will tolerate light shade. Should the winter months be dry, water the plantings. I have found the Split Corona class does very well in our area. Good ones are Mol's Hobby, Tricolet, Colblanc, Orangery, Palmars and Mondragon. (Note: See the spring 04 Horticultural Horizons for more of Loretta's favorite bulbs.)

If you are growing the perennial Hibiscus, the old top growth can be removed for garden neatness. An application of composted cattle manure now would be beneficial. The variety Southern Belle is one of the most popular. The huge blooms are red, pink and white. Seed pods are now on the old wood. If you have the space and like to experiment, these can be planted now, and will bloom next spring. Some are interesting.

If any of you are growing the Varnish tree, (Firmiana) never allow it to remain dry if the winter is dry, and we have a severe temperature drop for a few days. In 1983, those that were dry, were killed that year. This interesting tree is native to China and Africa. It is available at most garden centers in the spring container grown. New trees and shrubs planted this year, should be kept

well watered the first winter, as the root systems have not developed well.

I think most gardeners in central Oklahoma will remember the year 2004 as a weird one. Everything grew tall. And I mean TALL. The crepe myrtle plants I put out 30 years ago were dwarf, and never reached more than 4 ft. tall. Several reached 5 and 6 feet. The Leucanthia (Mexican Sage) grew to 6 ft. I did not spill fertilizer around it. Even the crabgrass exploded! Could there have been nitrogen in the air? Maybe a chemist could explain this. Other gardeners also experienced the tall factor this year. Even hail stones in the storm of April 21 were BIG.

If the perennial Peony is part of your plant collection, do not allow the old foliage to remain on the plant, or fall to the soil around the plant. The fungi spores of the Botrytis winter over on the old foliage. Remove foliage and toss in the trash can. If allowed to remain on the soil around the plant, next spring when the shoots with the buds push through the soil, will be infected. Buds when the size of a dime will turn brown and not open. Peonies should be grown in full sun, far away from roots of large trees. The Peony is one plant, that once established, does not like to be disturbed. When planting a new plant, no more than an inch of soil over the tips. If planted too deep, it may not bloom for years.

May all your plants be there to greet you when spring arrives.

OHS CHRISTMAS PARTY

DATE: Friday, December 17

TIME: 6:30 PM

PLACE: Home of Dixie & Bruce Gordon
12801 Williams Ct. OKC

DIRECTIONS:

>At NW 122 and Meridian - go north &
>Take the 2nd left which is ValVerde Dr, then
>Take the first left (Williams Court)
...a short cul-de-sac street .

The Gordons have a flag in front.

THE PARTY: This is a pot luck dinner, meat and drinks will be provided, so please bring your favorite food....fruit/veggies, cheeses, salads, casseroles, munchies or desserts.

Questions?

call Dixie at 752-1280 or Vicky at 330-9150



GARDENING AND COOKING GO HAND IN HAND

by Kamala Gamble

Owner of Kam's Kookery and OHS Member

I have lived in most regions in the US and my husband & I have traveled to and visited 45 of the 50 states and run marathons in 39 of them. We love visiting local gardens, community and otherwise, arboretums etc when we travel. My early career was in the banking industry which I left to become a professionally trained chef by attending Scottsdale Culinary Institute in Arizona. I worked in several nationally acclaimed restaurants in the area and learned about the use of fresh vegetables and herbs in cooking. I secured a position as assistant to the managing chef at Frontera Grill and Topolobampo in Chicago with renowned authentic Mexican chef Rick Bayless. During my tenure at the restaurant we visited many of the local organic farmers that supplied the restaurant.

I returned home to OKC to serve as the opening chef for an authentic Mexican restaurant. I was unable to locally buy many of the specialty vegetables & herbs that I had become accustomed to using. So I began to grow my own. To enhance my knowledge I attended OSU/OKC Horticulture Center, specializing in horticultural studies. Currently, my husband Lance & I grow herbs, specialty veg-

etables and flowers organically at Guilford Gardens on a half acre in suburban OKC. They distribute much of their produce through their 20+ family CSA and sell the rest at a local farmer's market. And in addition, supply heirloom tomatoes to some of OKC's fine dining establishments. I primarily teach hands-on cooking classes in my commercial professional kitchen at the same location as the farm. Often, the class members will harvest produce & herbs from the garden and then learn how to cook with them during that evening's class.

Garden experiences:

My maternal grandmother was an avid gardener and my parents grew vegetables to supplement our table when we were growing up. I did not start gardening until 2001 when I started a small garden. Since that time, the garden has quadrupled and the variety of vegetables and herbs grown has increased exponentially. I continue to amend the black clay soil and deal with the same wild Oklahoma weather that we all do. My husband & I are looking to increase our production through the purchase of an acreage with nice loamy soil - did I mention I believed in Santa Claus! While the cooking is immensely satisfying and supports the gardening, I would prefer to spend more time in the soil and less in the suds.

I owe a big debt of gratitude to many for helping my efforts in gardening including Julia Laughlin of OSU/OKC, Robert Stelle of Sunrise Acres, John Blevins aka the Worm Man, and Grace Morgan. At some point we will be featured on the food network **Recipe for Success** program - the filming was completed in September.

Visit me at "<http://www.kamskookery.com/>"

Happy gardening to all of you and I look forward to seeing you in meetings and at activities.

Dear OHS Members,

Thank you for your generous scholarship and membership with Oklahoma Horticultural Society. I received my first copy of your newsletter this week and enjoyed reading the articles and tips.

I am a fifth year landscape architecture student at OSU and will receive my bachelor of landscape architecture degree next May. My goal is to become a licensed landscape architect. And to design public spaces where people and families can go and create memorable experiences like the ones I have had when visiting parks with my family.

The past academic year I had the opportunity to complete two six month internships with Edward Stone and Associates in Florida and Agence Paysages in southern France. I had a wonderful learning experience and am beginning to understand how much it has and will complement my studies at OSU.

Thank you again for the scholarship. It has enabled me to focus more on my studies and I am very grateful. Sincerely, Katy Halgren

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OHS TREASURER'S REPORT

November 6, 2004

CHECKING ACCT. BALANCE: \$1,022.36

SAVINGS ACCT. BALANCE: \$26,822.66

EXOTIC VISITOR IN MY GARDEN

by Sharon Beasley

I was excited about a visitor to my yard about three weeks ago. It led me on a bit of a chase, but I finally was able to check it out. From the front yard to the back I chased a zebra longwing butterfly (formally called *Heliconius charitonius*). This was not the swallowtail kind of zebra butterfly, mind you.

I couldn't believe my eyes when I first saw the fluttering critter. It seemed to flutter differently than other butterflies I have seen in my yard. When I got close enough to see the pattern of it, I immediately thought of the zebra butterflies in the Crystal Bridge in downtown Oklahoma City, but I didn't think one could be free in Oklahoma.

The color is black with pale yellow stripes. Across the center back are two stripes. Toward the tail end is a line of yellow dots. At the wing tips are two slanting lines with a bit of a zigzag zag to them. I think they should be called widewings rather than longtails because the wings are wider across than they are from head to tail end - at least twice as wide as the other direction. The average wingspread must be three inches.

The one that visited my yard seemed drawn to the lantana flowers. It appeared the next day also, but I never saw it after that. I ran for my camera after spotting it the first time and did manage to get what I hope will be good pictures of it on the lantana.

After observing it for a while, I reached for my butterfly guide to learn more about it. I also checked a few websites. What I learned from all of this is that they are found around Texas to Florida and farther south. Florida

made it the state butterfly in 1996.

Besides lantana, they also like passion vines, of which I have plenty. Pentas are another favorite flower. They eat flower nectar as well as flower pollen and reportedly are the only butterfly to eat pollen. I had to chuckle at this information given at the website <creekgov.net/archives/000247.asp> where the wording was: *Zebras also feed on pollen by collecting blobs of pollen in their proboscis, which is then externally digested (the pollen, not the proboscis)*. My words now - remember from science class that the proboscis is the long tube feature that curls up when not in use. After reading their sentence though, it left me wondering about external digestion in butterflies and what kind of digestion is done with the nectar. In the caterpillar stage, they are white with black spines that are not injurious to touch as some spined larvae are. The amusing website shows a picture of both the egg, larval and butterfly stages.

You never know what you will learn when you start digging for information, but the author of the piece mentioned above also pointed out that Florida has a state food - Key Lime pie. And I think our Oklahoma legislators waste time naming state this's and that's.

At any rate, I believe my visitor was a rare one around here, and I wonder if it was an escapee from the Crystal Bridge. I hope it found a safe refuge already, before the freeze hits.

OKC'S ZOO 'AUTUMN EXTRAVAGANZA'

Thank you volunteers for the OKC Zoo's 'Autumn Extravaganza' on October 23rd. We had great plants, great people, at a wonderful location, which made this a very successful event. Thanks again for all your time and donations to:

Juhree Bassett	William Metcalf
Wanda Fallor	Pearl Pearson
John Fluitt	Patricia Steffens
Janis Johnson	Hugh & Jennifer Stout

Wanda White, chairperson

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“Basic Training” Workshop “Practical Landscaping for Oklahoma”!

OKC Beautiful offers “Basic Training” workshops throughout the year that are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! These wonderful workshops are taught by local professionals and geared toward helping people work smarter, not harder in their public green spaces or private gardens. The December guest speaker is John Fluitt, Landscape Designer. John is known for the impressive landscape design work that he and his business partner Marquette Clay do with their landscape installation company *Garden Design Associates*. Mr. Fluitt will be discussing “Practical Landscaping for Oklahoma” on Thursday, December 2nd from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Will Rogers Garden Exhibition Center located at 3400 N.W. 36th. If you or your group are interested in attending this workshop — enrollment is easy! Just call the OKC Beautiful office at 525-8822 by Monday, November 29th and tell us you wish to sign up. Space is limited, so enroll today!

OKC Beautiful’s quarterly “Basic Training” workshops are aimed at giving helpful, basic, no-nonsense advice to people maintaining public beautification projects. Our goal is to help people work smarter and more efficiently and give the latest tips on everything from more efficient litter control tactics to the best low-maintenance plants as well as more specialized topics. This fun and informative workshop is made possible through a generous grant from the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, with assistance from Neighborhood Alliance and the OKC Parks and Recreation Department

A FEW THINGS....

WHEN PAYING DUES:

- >please send your check to the OHS instead of the AHS.
- >find out when your annual dues are due, by checking the mailing label on the back of this issue.

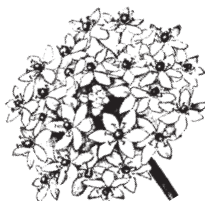
E-MAIL REMINDERS:

If you would like an e-mail reminder about upcoming events, especially monthly meetings, send Sharon Beasley an e-mail to tell her. Her e-mail address is gardener@pldi.net.

OHS WEBSITE: www.okhort.org

Check our website often. Hugh Stout, our president keeps it updated very regularly. This is a wonderful way to keep current on all the horticultural doings around. If you have items of horticultural interest to suggest for posting, contact Hugh at www.stoutgarden@cox.net

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DR. ALLAN ARMITAGE'S BOOKS:

Dr. Armitage has authored many books. He is best known for his classroom and reference text, **Herbaceous Garden Perennials, a Treatise of Identification, Culture and Garden Attributes**, now in its 2nd edition (1146 pages), a standard reference for gardeners, professionals and students.

Allan Armitage on Perennials,

a guidebook to perennials throughout North America won the prestigious Garden Communication Award from the Garden Writers Association of America.

Specialty Cut Flowers

He also wrote the internationally respected Specialty Cut Flowers in which commercial production and postharvest handling of over 200 species of specialty cut flowers are covered.

Ornamental Bedding Plant Production

discusses commercial production of bedding plants, published by CAB Press in England for European and American distribution, and has since been translated into Japanese.

His other books include **Bedding Plants, Prolonging Shelf Performance**, designed to enhance proper handling of garden plants, A revised book on **Seed Propagated Geraniums (2nd ed)**, the first book in the Commercial Greenhouse Series of books on production of greenhouse crops in which he was the editor.

These are some of the author's books to be sold and signed at each location. This event is made possible by the underwriting sponsorship of the Kirkpatrick Family Fund, The Oklahoma City Zoological Park, Tulsa City/County Libraries, the Educational Endowment of the Oklahoma Horticultural Society and additional support provided by the Tulsa Perennial Society.

More information at; www.okhort.org



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HELP!!

To maintain the finest quality for our statewide speaker's programs, and to support scholarships at the current level, the Oklahoma Horticultural Society must continue to raise funds.

The best way you can help is by making a tax deductible contribution to the Oklahoma Horticultural Society Endowment Fund associated with the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. Enclosed with this newsletter, is a easy mail-back envelope to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. On line giving is possible through their website at www.occf.org, or you can link to them through our website at www.okhort.org. There you will find details and directions on how to contribute for memorials or gifts.

Please help us to continue our educational efforts.

Sincerely,

Hugh Stout Jr.

OHS President

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Oklahoma's Leading Garden Centers

24th Annual Horticulture Industries Show

January 14 & 15, 2005

Holiday Inn Civic Center, Ft. Smith, Arkansas

PROGRAM GENERAL INFORMATION

The 24th Annual Horticulture Industries Show involves two days of educational programs and trade show activities for people with horticultural interests in Oklahoma, Arkansas, and surrounding states. The theme for the 24th Show is "Safe and Secure Food Begins on the Farm". Over 500 will be in attendance along with over 35 exhibitors of equipment, supplies and services. The General Session is at 9:00 **a.m.** both January 14 and 15 and will feature topics of general interest. Six horticultural commodity groups will offer educational sessions concurrently beginning at 10:30 **a.m.** each day. Program topics will be for existing producers, new producers, and service providers. Do not miss this Show if you are currently involved in or considering production, value added and marketing of fruits, vegetables, herbs, Christmas trees, or sustainable farming, Farmers Market, and master gardener/public horticulture. For more information, contact Department of Horticulture and L.A., OSU by email: donna.dollins@okstate.edu or by phone 405-744-6460.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Kamyar Enshayan

This year's featured speakers on Friday, January 14 will be Dr. Kamyar Enshayan. Dr. Enshayan is an agricultural engineer and teaches at the University of Northern Iowa. He directs the UNI Local Food Project and coordinates the "Buy Fresh, Buy Local" campaign in collaboration with Practical Farmers of Iowa. He has worked to expand local markets for local farms by working with institutional food buyers in Northeast Iowa. Kamyar also serves on the Cedar Falls City Council.

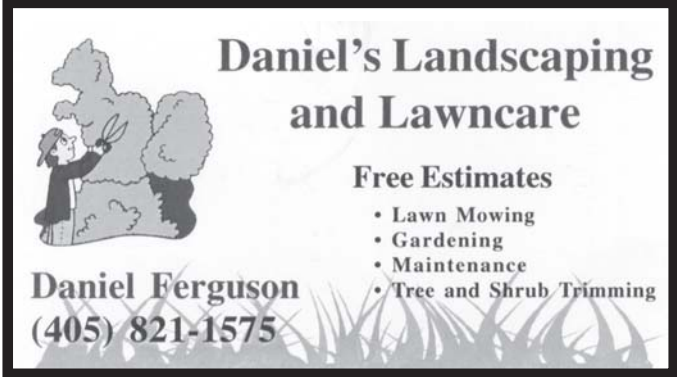
Food security is a broad topic, but it has a specific category dealing with local food systems, goodshed, food circles, and institutional good buying. Local markets supporting local food production is a vital link in keeping family farmers in business. The "Buy Fresh, Buy Local" program has generated data on the economic impact of institutional food buying on the regional economy. So far twenty-three hospitals, schools, restaurants, and grocery stores have joined the program and resulted in significant dollars re-circulated in the Iowa State economy.

William McGlynn and Lynn Brandenberger

Lynn Brandenberger is a horticulturist with major responsibilities for serving the needs of the commercial vegetable industry in Oklahoma. Dr. Brandenberger is responsible for leading extension and research programs focused on enhancing the yield, quality and safety of fresh and processed vegetables. His program addresses the cultural aspects of vegetable production, leading efforts state wide for crop cultural concerns, weed control and food safety. His research and demonstration program has been instrumental in cooperating with producers and county agents to determine what industry needs are and how to address those needs. Past and ongoing work includes: Variety evaluations, fertility, irrigation, mulches, crop enhancement compounds and population studies; Herbicide screening and rate studies in several vegetable crop groups; Studies regarding the potential for microbial contamination in fresh produce. In addition, he has published results of his work through peer reviewed journals and written numerous applied research reports published in the annual Vegetable Trial Report. His work has been implemented through his many collaborations with researchers, producers and county extension staff through out the state and nation.

Current and past projects include evaluation of vegetable cultivars and screening of new weed control materials for use in vegetable crops. Detailed results of these studies are included in the 2003 Vegetable Trial Report and are available through the Department of Horticulture at Oklahoma State University .

Extensive and complete data information can be found on the following web site: <http://home.okstate.edu/homepages.nsf/toc/VegetableTrialReport>



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Exochorda serratifolia

Common Name: Pearlbush by Dr. Mike Schnelle

Because Pearlbush (*Exochorda serratifolia*) is appropriate to use in a number of hardiness zones and the fact that it lights up the spring landscape, this species and its cultivars need greater appreciation by Oklahoma landscapers and nursery personnel alike. This Rosaceae family member is underutilized relative to other pearlbush species and hybrids within this genus, particularly in the warmer zones of its growing range.

Spring foliage of pearlbush unfurls sometime in early March, at least in zone 7. The simple, alternately arranged leaves ultimately expand to 3-4" long. With immature or unhardened growth, the petioles add to the spring/summer ornamental display as they are often pink to purple several weeks before turning green. While the arrival of the leaves is not the ornamental focus, the flowers that soon follow definitely attract attention. The plant's common name is derived from the early tight flower buds that loosely resemble pearls. The white racemes, made up of several individual five-petaled flowers almost 1" in diameter each, last at least two weeks in the landscape. With the balance of the growing season, the foliage remains clean & virtually pest & disease free.

As fall approaches, yellow fall color may develop some years. Another ornamental attribute is the ornamental, ¼" five-valved capsules that persist on the plant into the winter. Fruits resemble those of *Euonymus* (*Euonymus* spp.) although again they are five not four-valved capsules. Bark for this species is normally brown and dull for much winter interest.

Use *E. serratifolia* as a large shrub or limb the species into a small tree to 10-12' tall in most sites (some cultivars more compact). This particular pearlbush thrives in dappled shade or full sun when irrigated. Between my experience and what I've read, I haven't found it to be

particular regarding pH although I suspect optimally it would prefer slightly acidic soils. Upon establishment it is at least slightly drought tolerant although it must receive periodic irrigation when good flower display and lush foliage are expected. When grown as a tree, pearlbush probably deserves another look as a "utilitree" given its diminutive size and unlikeliness to grow into power lines. Pearlbush performs well in large architectural containers besides traditional landscape plantings. This species, en masse, also serves as a low maintenance deciduous hedge. Landscapers will find this plant to be remarkably durable, stepping up to the plate in a number of landscape settings and uses.

Cultivars for this plant exist such as 'Snow White' and 'Northern Pearls' (a particularly cold hardy selection. The species can be propagated by seed which is commercially available from various woody seed companies. Cold stratification is necessary from 60-90 days at 34-36F. It may also be propagated by softwood cuttings.

Exochorda serratifolia can be grown from Minnesota to Texas, again making this Asian plant an exciting small tree or large shrub for the majority of U.S. gardeners (zones 4-8) to enjoy. Contact Mike Schnelle at OSU for additional information.

OHS WEBSITE:
www.okhort.org

Satterlee Landscape Nursery has been serving plant lovers from across the state for 36 years. Family owned and operated, we specialize in unusual varieties as well as old favorites. Select from a wide variety of trees, shrubs, perennials, water plants, annuals and tropicals for every situation.

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PLANTING IN THE RAIN

by Keta Stevens

Custer County Master Gardener and
Oklahoma Horticultural Society Member

Last Wednesday about five Master Gardeners, several of which are also members of the Okla Hort Society, decided to plant about 300 daffodil bulbs in a median on the east side of Weatherford. No sooner had we begun, it began to drizzle. Fortunately some of the Weatherford city crew were working in the same median, trenching electrical wiring for new Christmas lights. One of the gardeners went over and asked if they would like to help us out. They came and trenched some rows, and then we planted bulbs in the light rain (which was getting a little heavier). Yes, the trenching was a little deeper than what our shovels would have done, but this was virgin ground and only bermuda was growing there. This would have been hard labor and made a very long afternoon, so we were appreciative for the help.

As we stood in the parking lot, looking how wet and muddy we were, we were laughing and happy that we had a fun afternoon in the rain. We'll certainly will look back on this day in March & April and laugh again; knowing the city and gardeners worked together to make our community a little more cheerful in the spring.

These King Alfreds daffodils were bought locally and will naturalize very well. For our small community, we only had about 300 bulbs donated. After some bloom next year and years after, I'm sure we'll receive more donations.

Weatherford is hosting the Master Gardener State Conference for next year in June. Of course, our daffodils will have bloomed long before then, but it will spur our community to get spruced up for June.

COLOR OKLAHOMA

I am writing you about a unique opportunity to help color Oklahoma's roadsides and parks with wildflowers. It is a newly approved special vehicle license tag. I am with Color Oklahoma — Sow Some Wild Seeds. We are a project of the nonprofit Oklahoma Native Plant Society dedicated to adding wildflowers to Oklahoma roadsides, parks and other highly visible public places. We convinced the Legislature and governor this year to authorize a license tag to help fund our program. But there is a catch. We must sell 100 pre-ordered tags by Dec. 30 of this year. If we don't reach that goal, we lose the tag. This is an opportunity that we don't lose. We want everyone driving our highways to enjoy the colorful blooms of spring and summer wildflowers. Payment for the tag is to be sent to the state Tax Commission and should we not reach our goal, all payments will be refunded by the state.

I have order forms, a color print of the tag design and a letter of explanation that I would like to send to you so that you can share it with friends and other members of the Oklahoma Iris Society. Each tag costs \$35, and with Christmas coming up, a tag would be a lovely present that will also be helping others and the state. Feel free to check out our website at .

Yours truly, Pearl Garrison 918 587-4624

Contact wildflowers@coloroklahoma.org



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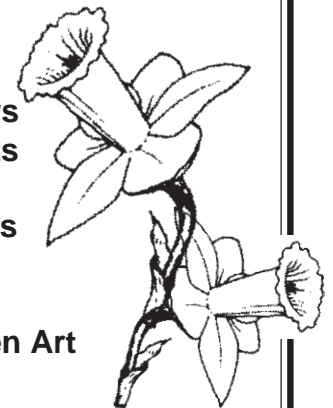


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OKLAHOMA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY 2004-5 EVENTS

- >**December 17, 2004** - OHS Christmas "Pot Luck" Party. See page 3 for details. (405) 330-9150
- >**January 14-15, 2005**: 24th Annual Arkansas/Oklahoma Horticulture Industries Show "Safe and Secure Food Begins on the Farm" held at Fort Smith, Arkansas at the Holiday Inn Civic Center. For information contact Donna Dollins, 405-744-6460 or visit the website: <http://home.okstate.edu/Okstate/dasnr/hort/hortlahome.nsf/toc/HIS>
- >**January 25, 2005** - OHS Monthly Meeting; TBA - Will Rogers Garden Exhibition Bldg; 7 pm; bring snacks
- >**February 18, 2005**: OHS presents Dr. Allan Armitage in Tulsa at 6:30 PM, Tulsa's Hardesty Library Auditorium, 8360 E. 93rd Street; see page 1 & 7 for further details.
- >**February 19, 2005**: OHS Winter Meeting presents Dr. Allan Armitage in Oklahoma City at 2:00 PM, OKC Zoo and Botanical Gardens Education Center, OKC Zoo and Botanical Gardens; see page 1 & 7 for further details.
- >**February 28, 2005** - OHS Monthly Meeting; TBA - Will Rogers Garden Exhibition Bldg; 7 pm; bring snacks
- >**March 18-20, 2005**: Oklahoma Flower, Plant and Landscaping Show & Sale at Tulsa Convention Center
- >**March 22, 2005** - OHS Monthly Meeting; TBA - Will Rogers Garden Exhibition Bldg; 7 pm; bring snacks

OHS Monthly Educational Meetings:

Monthly educational meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month (except July, August and December) at 7 PM at the OKC Will Rogers Garden Center. Meetings are open to the public and all are welcome.

OHSWEBSITE:

www.okhort.org



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| <input type="checkbox"/> Gift Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Life OHS Member - Does Not Include \$20 yearly AHS Dues . . . | 300.00 |

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OKLAHOMA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

**SEE PAGE 3
FOR DIRECTIONS**

OHS CHRISTMAS PARTY

DATE Friday, December 17
TIME: 6:30 PM
PLACE: Home of Dixie & Bruce Gordon
12801 Williams Ct. OKC



DR. ALLAN ARMITAGE - LECTURES

Friday, February 18th, Tulsa 6:30 PM, Tulsa's Hardesty Library
Auditorium, 8360 E. 93rd Street

"Legends in the Garden: Who in the World is Nellie Stevens?"

Saturday, February 19th, Oklahoma City

OKC Zoo and Botanical Gardens Education Center, 2101 NE 50th (East parking lot)
OHS Annual Meeting schedule:

1:00 PM General Membership

2:30 PM Dr. Allan Armitage Lecture:

"If You're Going to Spend Your Money, You Might As Well Buy the Good Stuff"

**SEE PAGE 1 & 7
FOR THE DETAILS**

Mailing address: OHS P.O. Box 75425 Oklahoma City, OK 73147-5425
Web Page: www.okhort.org